

25X1

Approved For Release 2007/03/09 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001100160017-1

Approved For Release 2007/03/09 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001100160017-1

SECRET

25X1

62

ARMY review(s) completed.

OCI No. 1437/73 2

State Dept. review completed

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
27 January 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 1630 EST)

1. The Communists are continuing a highly coordinated, widespread campaign to improve their territorial position in the hours before a cease-fire. Still sketchy field reports on the Tay Ninh City situation indicate that government forces had by nightfall succeeded in recapturing most, if not all, of those portions of the city that were lost to the Communists during the daylight hours. Enemy infiltration efforts and some fighting reportedly continues in parts of the city, however. Thus far, a large percentage of the enemy ground attacks reported throughout the country, including the Tay Ninh action, apparently have been carried out by local force units while Communist main force units generally stayed in the background.

2. Delayed reporting from the US Embassy as well as US military authorities shows that several Communist attacks were made against villages and roadways in the normally quiet provinces east and northeast of Saigon on 26 and 27 January. Hardest hit was the Tanh Linh District capital, in Binh Tuy Province, which apparently was partially overrun at one time. South Vietnamese defenders reportedly are holding their own there and elsewhere in the province, however. In nearby Phuoc Tuy Province, enemy troops in South Vietnamese army uniforms have infiltrated several villages near the provincial capital of Ba Ria. Other provinces reporting small-scale, generally limited Communist attacks were Tuyen Duc and Binh Thuan; in the latter, several outposts and hamlets around the capital of Phan Thiet reportedly were still occupied by small enemy units in the morning hours of 27 January.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

25X1 3. in the delta, press reports indicate that South Vietnamese regulars have been airlifted into Cai Lay District capital, astride Route 4 in Dinh Tuong Province. The highway, the main link between Saigon and the delta, reportedly remains cut south of town, however. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] the Communists are still holding portions of Long My District capital in Chuong Thien Province. All five district capitals in the province are being intermittently shelled and the provincial capital of Vi Thanh is being hit by sporadic rocket rounds. Communist shellings and some ground action continues close to the Cambodian border in the western delta area. Most of the Communist effort is occurring in the border provinces of Chau Doc and Kien Giang and appears designed to mask further enemy infiltration of the delta.

25X1 4. High ranking North Vietnamese and Viet Cong leaders are heading to Saigon to take part in the four party Joint Military Commission. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] a 400 to 500 man North Vietnamese military delegation headed by Lieutenant General Le Quang Hoa would be departing Hanoi for Saigon on the 28th. Hoa is the Deputy Chief of the General Political Directorate of the North Vietnamese Army and the director of the country's army newspaper. He is 55 years old and in his career has commanded a number of combat units in the North. Some reports indicate Hoa served with the Viet Cong in 1967. Press reports, meanwhile, indicate the Viet Cong delegation to the Joint Military Commission will be led by Dang Van Thu, a high ranking cadre of the People's Revolutionary Government. Thu is scheduled to leave Paris for Saigon on 27 January.

SECRET

25X1